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## HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND THE DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION TO CONDUCT A FULL INVESTIGATION INTO THE CAUSES  
OF ILLNESSES REPORTED BY STUDENTS AND TEACHERS AT WAIMEA  
CANYON MIDDLE SCHOOL DURING OCCASIONS IN 2006, 2007, AND  
2008.

1           WHEREAS, on January 25, 2008, ten students and one teacher  
2 at Waimea Canyon Middle School on Kauai were sent to the  
3 emergency room with symptoms of headaches, nausea, and dizziness  
4 due to a noxious odor; and

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6           WHEREAS, while the source of the odor has not been  
7 ascertained, the spraying of pesticide on adjacent farm lands  
8 that are being cultivated by Syngenta Seeds, Incorporated, is a  
9 potential source, as well as the possible presence of cleome  
10 gynandra (stinkweed); and

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12           WHEREAS, the commercial application of agricultural  
13 pesticides has been suspected in other incidents of students and  
14 teachers becoming ill while on the Waimea Canyon Middle School  
15 campus in November 2006 and January 2007, and most recently the  
16 incident on January 25, 2008; and

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18           WHEREAS, on February 12, 2008, the Kauai Director of the  
19 Hawai'i State Teachers Association requested by letter that the  
20 Department of Health (DOH) test the students and teachers for  
21 toxic levels of pesticides after the January 25, 2008 incident,  
22 and noted that the DOH did not take samples or conduct tests  
23 after the incident; and

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25           WHEREAS, S.B. No. 3170, Regular Session of 2008, which  
26 would establish a pesticide-free buffer zone around elementary  
27 schools and impose a seventy-two hour written notice to all  
28 schools in the immediate area of spraying requirement, was  
29 amended on February 15, 2008, to establish a working group to  
30 develop an action plan for addressing incidents of pesticide  
31 exposure at public schools and a monitoring program for affected  
32 schools; and  
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1           WHEREAS, it is imperative that the source of ongoing  
2 occurrences of student and teacher illnesses at Waimea Canyon  
3 Middle School be determined with certainty as soon as possible;  
4 now, therefore,  
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6           BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
7 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
8 Session of 2008, that the Department of Health and the  
9 Department of Education are requested to conduct a full  
10 investigation into the causes of illnesses reported by students  
11 and teachers at Waimea Canyon Middle School on Kauai during  
12 occasions in 2006, 2007, and 2008, which are suspected to be a  
13 result of pesticide applications near or adjacent to the  
14 schools; and  
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16           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this investigation is requested  
17 to include a systematic and scientific approach, toxicology  
18 testing, and a comparative study of students, teachers, and  
19 staff at Waimea Canyon Middle School and a "control group" at  
20 another school that is not adjacent to agricultural operations  
21 and therefore not regularly exposed to pesticide spraying; and  
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23           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, if current departmental  
24 funding does not allow for a full scientific investigation, the  
25 departments are requested to develop a comprehensive plan for  
26 the investigation and a detailed estimate of the resources  
27 necessary to complete the plan; and  
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29           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health and  
30 the Department of Education are requested to submit a report to  
31 the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the Regular  
32 Session of 2009, on their findings and recommendations,  
33 including:  
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35           (1) The results of their investigation as aforescribed;  
36           or  
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38           (2) The proposed plan and the funding required to  
39 determine with certainty whether the students and  
40 teachers at Waimea Canyon Middle School on Kauai have  
41 incurred any increased health risks as a result of the  
42 close proximity to agricultural pesticide sprayings,  
43 when compared to schools outside of areas subject to  
44 similar conditions.



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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health and the Superintendent of Education.

OFFERED BY:

Richard S. I.  
Henry Snow

MAR 07 2008

